

# 2011 Eagle Update

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake



Photo courtesy of R.H. Quay, 2010

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual mid-winter Bald Eagle survey was completed on January 7, 2010. Despite freezing temperatures, surveyors from The Corps of Engineers and The Pennsylvania Game Commission recorded 12 eagles while navigating the partially frozen waters of Raystown Lake. This number is slightly down compared to trend data, but Raystown Wildlife Biologist Jeff Krause is optimistic for the population in the months to come.

The Eagle population at Raystown Lake has steadily increased since tracking began in 1990. 52 Eagles have fledged (or successfully left the nest) at Raystown, six last year alone! Explanations for the trend vary, but Raystown's excellent habitat and food supplies remain a consistent factor for success.

Eagle watchers may be challenged this year. Two of the four Raystown nests fell during storms in 2010. One of which was the Dam site, the lakes most visible and well-known nests. Despite the losses, Krause advises Eagles commonly rebuild nests near previous locations. Keep a watchful eye skyward and observe nests sites from a distance, and visitors are likely to catch a glimpse of an Eagle.

Krause explains that staff will be watching the nests carefully over the next two months to determine if pairs return for another breeding season. He is hopeful that a new nest near Aitch will also prove to be productive. Nest area zones are well marked and visitors must not disturb wildlife.

No doubt, the following months will be both challenging and exciting for the future of Bald Eagles at Raystown.

## A Year In The Life Of A Raystown Eagle

